

Record

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By Alberta Lindsey
Richmond Times Dispatch

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP) — "Beware of the sweetness and splendour of sex," the poster warned. "It could prove hazardous to your health and life."

A lot of people have paid little attention to the message that hangs on an office door at Makerere University Medical School in Kampala. Uganda has one of the highest Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) rates in the world.

Mark Pierce, a Southern Baptist missionary who is an infectious diseases specialist at the 1,700-bed hospital, said

more than half his patients have AIDS. Since the hospital's AIDS clinic began in 1987, more than 13,500

patients have registered. The story is about the same 200 miles away at Mbarara University Hospital, where Larry Pepper, another missionary, works. More than half his patients also have AIDS.

Pepper, 37, cared for astronauts and their families at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston before going to Mbarara in September.

"I think it's something all of us face, not only as missionaries, but as Americans in a country



OPEN WIDE — Larry Pepper and a colleague check a patient at Mbarara University Hospital. (Photo by P. Kevin Morley © 1997 Richmond Times-Dispatch)

like this," Pepper said. "People come to your door every day with needs that can't be met."

Pierce left the clinic and walked through an open ward. Beds, many with chipped paint, were close together. Unscreened windows were open.

He stopped at the bed of a 30-year-old man who was comatose. The patient was suffering from cryptococcal meningitis, an illness most people could fight off, but not someone weakened by AIDS.

Because the hospital has few nurses, the man's mother and sister stayed there, sleeping on a mat on the floor beside his bed, to care for him. The mother mixed porridge and milk to feed her son through a tube.

Families not only furnish food, they also bring sheets and blankets or the patient has none. Several patients lay on bare mattresses. Outside, family members washed patients' clothes in

bright red, blue, or orange plastic pans, spreading the wet things on the grass to dry.

Mbarara Hospital has a few rooms for one or two patients, Pepper said. The cost is \$10 U.S. per day. If two people share the room, they split the cost.

At Makerere Hospital, chest X-rays are \$1.50. The hospital has a CT scanner, but it's seldom used because the cost is \$80 and few Ugandans can afford that.

Ugandans accept AIDS and death as a matter of fact. "You see so much of it," Pierce said. "It's not ever routine, but you do become somewhat dull to it after a while."

The people here are so different in their relationship to illness. They seem to maintain

their spirits better. Their family does, too."

Pepper is surprised at the attitude medical students have toward AIDS patients.

"I want to help students understand there is something we can do for AIDS patients," Pepper said. "There are plenty of treatments for secondary complications, such as pneumonia and diarrhea. The thing here is: They are going to die anyway, so why bother? I'm trying to get them to realize they can touch patients — not just touch with a stethoscope — and talk with them."

In addition to caring for their patients' illnesses, the two missionary doctors try to save their souls. Pepper

leads a Bible study on Friday nights for medical students at Mbarara Hospital. And sometimes he tells his patients about God and gives them Bible leaflets.

He gave a leaflet to Anthony Kamuntu, 37, who had been hospitalized three days because of stomach pain. The cause of his pain hasn't been diagnosed. Holding his Bible, Kamuntu said, "I am so happy to find out there are other people who love God."

Pepper said, "I'm not a Billy Graham, so I'm not out there holding preaching crusades. But God has allowed me to lead a few people to Christ and that is a great reward."

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Looking back

10 years ago

A report from the trustees of Mississippi College to the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention expresses doubt about the future of Clarke College in Newton. The report paints a desperate picture of financial indebtedness and accreditation problems.

20 years ago

Evangelist James Robison's Sunday morning program is temporarily pulled by a Dallas TV station because of personal attacks on homosexuals and "Playboy" publisher Hugh Hefner. Robison's show is reinstated after agreeing to refrain from personal attacks.

50 years ago

J. D. Franks, for 10 years the Mississippi representative on the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, sets sail for Europe to make a first-hand inspection of conditions and the effectiveness of the Church World Service program of overseas relief and reconstruction.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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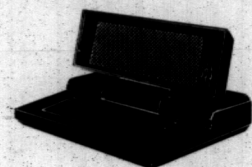
The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention went live last weekend with a home page on the internet.

Available at <http://www.annuityboard.org>, the new home page provides instant access to church and denominational staff retirement options and other educational services. Interested net surfers may also access unit values of investment funds.

The home page includes tips and facts about saving and investing for retirement; answers to frequently asked questions about Annuity Board products and services; and specific information for ministers, church employees and employees of SBC agencies and institutions.

The latest information on life, health and disability programs is also posted.

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Children shouldn't pay this price

Precious few Americans alive today can claim to be untouched by divorce. Our sociopathic culture has given us so many legal rationales for divorce that marriage has devolved from a sacred, inviolable institution (Gen 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6) into a commodity that can be virtually bought and traded on the open market.

For several years, the U.S. divorce rate has hovered around 50% of all marriages. However, a study not long ago indicated that couples who have a strong spiritual relationship and regularly attend church have a much lower divorce rate.

That's not to say Christians have avoided the divorce phenomenon, or that there is no place for divorcees in the Christian church. There's a place in the Christian church for everyone who knows Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

However grudgingly, we must accept the fact that divorce has become an institutionalized way of life in America.

A friend of several years ago told this stunned editor after her spur-of-the-moment, justice of the peace wedding: "It's okay. We can always get a divorce if this doesn't work out."

Her prophecy was fulfilled in less than a year.

Then there are the divorces that involve innocent victims. Because some spouses choose to act in destructive ways — sexual and physical abuse, alcoholism, adultery, abandonment — divorce has become a necessity in some cases. No one should be expected to stay in a relationship where they or other family members are in mortal danger or have been abandoned.

However, too many couples have opted for no-fault divorces of convenience, fueled by the opinions of so-called "experts" over the past several decades that married couples should go ahead and divorce without guilt so everyone can get on with their lives.

Only, everyone doesn't get on with their lives.

A definitive, 25-year study released last week by two highly-credible researchers indicates that children of divorce experience profound, lifelong problems regardless of the circumstances surrounding their parents' split.

The study, by California psychologist and divorce researcher Judith Wallerstein and San Francisco State psychology professor Julia Lewis, tracked 60 divorced families that included 26 children between the ages of two and six at the time of their parents' divorce.

The study's conclusions, which are here-in derived from news media accounts and not from a review of the study itself, seem to show that children of divorce carry unresolved problems and concerns well into adulthood — if not for all their lives.

Drugs and alcohol became a mainstay for about half the children in the study. Many of them came to experience the myriad tragedies associated with premarital sexual promiscuity, and this was especially true for the girls.

In one television news interview, a 31-year-old single mother who was one of the children in the study tearfully related the difficulties and inner turmoil whenever she attempted to develop close relationships with other people.

Her parents' divorce contributed to the fact that she couldn't point to a single successful relationship in the whole of her life.

The financial toll among children of divorce is equally disturbing. Although many divorced parents in the study were professionals who earned an upper-middle-class living, not one father provided full support for his children's college education and nearly one-fourth of fathers cut off all financial support after the child turned age 18.

Those facts resulted in many of the children having lesser educational opportunities and being forced to take lower-paying

"I'D LIKE TO, JOHN, BUT THERE ARE A COUPLE OF LITTLE THINGS ON MY DESK NEEDING MY ATTENTION FOR TODAY. GOOD-BYE."



Happy Father's Day 1997!

jobs with little or no future.

Lewis noted that the children in the study harbored a great deal of anxiousness about their own prospects for a successful marriage because of the infidelity, depression, and sadness they experienced in their parents' marital breakdown.

What does all of this say to Christians? It says that the Bible's advice on marriage has been viable all along.

Marriage means one man and one woman for life (Gen 2:24). Marriage means we should guard our hearts against sin that pollutes commitment to the marital relationship (Pro. 5:20-23).

Marriage means children are a treasure of the Lord (Mark 10:16) to be loved, protected, and taught the ways of God by their parents (Pro. 22:6).

It's tragic that people in our hedonistic society — including far too many Christians — don't see it that way.

GUEST OPINION:



A father's life, well-lived

By Robert S. Leigh, member
First Church, Jackson

Adapted from the June 18, 1964 issue of "The Baptist Record," and reprinted in observance of Fathers Day on Sunday, June 15.

Tonight a life is fading out, quietly and peacefully. As a candle is used up and the light begins to flicker, so does the human spark of life. It may be hours or weeks, but very definitely it will be in the near future. Time has caught up with the years, 82 of them.

As I sit now in meditation and thought at the hospital bedside of my father, I see a life coming to an end. God has been good to him. As he prepares to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, he looks forward to an eternal life with his Creator.

I recall some of the high points of his life. My father was born in 1881 and reared on Glenwild Plantation, Grenada. He attended Bowling Green College in Kentucky, where he majored in bookkeeping.

His life was not spectacular, more of the average type. Father was not trained as a leader but was a loyal follower.

Father married in 1906 in Columbia. There were seven children of this union. Of the

six children who became adults, five finished college.

How well I recall tonight special events in my life associated with my

father. My first automobile trip to the Gulf Coast when I was five years old.

His review of my first Latin assignment. My first job in Washington, D.C., with his seeing me off on a Greyhound bus. His frequent ques-

tion, "Have you found someone you love more than yourself?" My first child.

My father was and still is a God-fearing man. He

loved his family, home, and country, but he loved

his Creator and Savior. He was

partially deaf, but found the radio and TV media for communication to hear

God's work proclaimed. Most of his Sundays



Father's Day
Sunday, June 15

were filled with these religious programs.

He frequently read and studied the Holy Bible. He practiced strong Christian and Baptist beliefs and principles as set forth in the Scriptures.

This communion with God brought great joy and happiness to his soul. He knew God, and just as Enoch walked with God so did my father. Truly, he was a son of Abraham.

Many other thoughts come to mind, but as I jot these down I am satisfied that God has been good to my father and me. I feel he is satisfied with his God-given life, and I know I could not have had a better father.

What an example of high-level living he has set for me to achieve! How richly we both have been blessed.

Each of us must someday face this bedside situation with our loved ones, and eventually we will be the one preparing for the journey. As we each move up a notch, we have the life cycle — my father, myself, and my son.

May God's will be done in all that we do on earth, and may we too look forward to going to our home in Heaven.

Editor's note: Leigh's father died on Jan. 4, 1964, five days after this was written.

Mississippian Cox named FMB regional leader

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Greenwood native J. Larry Cox was named regional leader for the Middle East and North Africa by Foreign Mission Board (FMB) trustees during their June 2-4 meeting.

Cox, 48, is one of 14 regional leaders selected effective July 1 in a revitalization of the board's overseas operations.

On that date, the FMB name will be changed to International Mission Board (IMB).

Trustees decided to divide the world into 14 regions "for growth and kingdom impact" during their April meeting.

FMB President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian, stressed that the purpose of the revitalization is to mobilize the board to focus on bringing all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Cox's region encompasses people groups in many countries that have traditionally been unfriendly to mission work.

Much of the region is consid-

ered part of the "Last Frontier" — where the majority of people have had little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ because of religious, cultural, or political resistance. Other countries, while resistant, have allowed traditional mission work.

Though Cox has most recently worked as associate to Area Director John Floyd in Europe, he has extensive experience working with Last Frontier people groups.

He was FMB missionary agriculturist in Africa from 1975 to 1987, then set up non-profit groups to provide a Christian witness to Central Asia through business consultancies, exchange programs, and medical relief work.

In 1994, FMB named him to focus on reaching a people group in North Africa with the gospel.

Cox's immediate challenge in his new position will be bringing together mission workers in countries that were formerly

parts of four administrative areas in FMB work, he said.

He plans to establish a prayer network among the missionaries so they can hear each other's needs and visions for their work.

Cox will provide strategic leadership to 318 missionaries in the region, but he recognizes the complexity of the task. "We're not coming into this region with preplanned strategies," said Cox. "We want to listen to missionaries and understand their hearts and visions for reaching their target people groups for Christ."

Cox graduated from Mississippi College in Clinton, and earned the master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville,

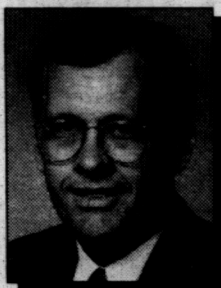
Ky.; the master of agriculture degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville; and the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Before his missionary appointment, he was minister of education at First Church, Vicksburg.

As a missionary in Burkina Faso, he was involved in agricultural work.

He and his wife, the former Cheryl Keathley of Memphis, have two grown children and Amanda, 18; and Allison, 14.

For additional information on new FMB appointments, please turn to page five.



Cox



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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Miss. Baptists set Lottie pace — again

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and staff reports) — Mississippi Baptists repeated as the Southern Baptist Convention's most faithful supporters of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, according to 1996 figures just released by the denomination's Foreign Mission Board (FMB) in Richmond, Va.

In sending a record \$8,002,547 to the annual offering, Mississippi Baptists led the entire Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in per capita giving and dollar increase over the previous year's offering total — itself a record until the 1996 offering.

In addition, Mississippi Baptists ranked second in percentage increase over the previous year's offering and third in total 1996 dollars given.

Mississippi was the only state to lead in more than one of the four major categories tracked by FMB, and Alabama was the only other state represented among the top ten slots in all of the four major categories.

If state gifts totalling under \$1,000,000 were factored out, Mississippi would have been the number-one state in three of the four FMB categories.

"God's work prospers in Mississippi because of the many faithful people in our churches who really believe God is serious about bringing our world to Christ. That includes giving generously to support the far-flung missions enterprise to which God has called so many of his choice servants," said Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

"I can only express my deep gratitude to the pastors and teachers who regularly hold up this banner before their people.

"We are also deeply humbled by this home-grown faith that sets an example for the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention, and demonstrates that central to all we do is getting God's Word to the whole world," Causey said.

Marjean Patterson, director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), credited teamwork for the record offering.

"I am grateful for everyone who planned for the Season of Prayer for Foreign Missions and (for the people) who

led out in this great emphasis. I simply could not be more proud to be a Mississippi Baptist," she said.

SBC-wide giving to the annual offering posted its fourth straight gain and for the first time in history surpassed the \$90 million mark when the books closed May 31.

At a record \$93,089,179.27, the 1996 offering reflected dollar and percentage increases greater than any since 1988.

From 1995, receipts increased about \$4.1 million, or 4.6% — almost twice the rate of inflation.

Learning of the record total, FMB President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian, responded: "That's great. This will allow us to continue our thrust toward reaching the Last Frontier, and continue the pattern of appointing missionaries at record levels."

FMB, which will change its name to International Mission Board (IMB) on July 1, last year appointed 590 overseas mission workers for assignments of two years or more, a record number of new workers in a year's time.

The annual number of new workers has

been rising steadily for several years. Much of the thrust has been in rapidly responding harvest areas and in the Last Frontier, regions where people groups have had little or no access to the gospel.

"Southern Baptists will rejoice in the results of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for 1996... we cannot rest on our laurels... if we are to bring people from every tribe, tongue and nation to the throne of God," said Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Southern Baptist WMU in Birmingham.

"I can just imagine the amazement of Lottie Moon if she were here today," O'Brien said. Still, "We must look toward even greater sacrifice in providing necessary resources" for continuing growth overseas.

Last fall, FMB trustees approved a 1997 budget of \$205.5 million based mainly on Lottie Moon receipts and \$72.5 million from the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

The Lottie moon Offering is generally collected in churches during December. It funds nearly half (47%) of the board's budget.

1996 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

PER CAPITA GIVING

% INCREASE OVER 1995

1. Mississippi	\$11.48
2. North Carolina	\$8.44
3. South Carolina	\$8.41
4. West Virginia	\$8.06
5. Nevada	\$7.43

1. West Virginia	107%
2. Mississippi	19.18%
3. Penn/South Jersey	16.72%
4. Utah/Idaho	11.63%
5. Alabama	11.37%

DOLLAR INCREASE OVER 1995

TOTAL DOLLARS

1. Mississippi	+\$1,288,083
2. Alabama	+\$778,502
3. North Carolina	+\$309,309
4. Georgia	+\$254,172
5. South Carolina	+\$253,789

1. Texas	\$14,089,218
2. North Carolina	\$9,903,444
3. Mississippi	\$8,002,547
4. Georgia	\$7,924,695
5. Alabama	\$7,626,776

Source: SBC Foreign Mission Board

Cox family: more than 'ordinary' Christians

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Years ago Marvin and Glenda Cox dedicated their children to the Lord. The Coxes have two sons and a daughter.

"What we meant was we wanted them to be more than just ordinary Christians," Marvin said.

God answered their prayers, but in a most surprising way. Both of their sons have surrendered to preach. Sam, age 29, has been pastor of Cornersville Church, Union Association since 1992.

Philip, age 19, who will be a senior this fall at East Union Attendance Center, was licensed to preach in the spring of 1996. Daughter Rachel is married and lives nearby.

Marvin has been Director of Missions (DOM) for Union Association since 1980.

Marvin Cox was saved, bap-

tized, licensed to preach, and ordained at Ellistown Church, Union Association.

Sam was saved, baptized, licensed to preach and ordained at Ellistown Church. Philip was saved, baptized, and licensed to preach at Ellistown Church.

Philip will one day likely be ordained there, too.

"I never really thought about them being in the ministry," Cox said. Years ago when someone asked Cox what his goal in life was, he said, "to pass along my value system and beliefs to my children."

Father's Day at the Cox household is a celebration of those values and beliefs.

"I never felt any pressure from my parents," Sam said. "It's funny — people would always ask me, 'Are you going to be a preacher like your daddy?' God gave me enough sense to answer, 'If that is what God wants!'"

Sam said his father was a positive influence on his life. During his father's years as a pastor, then as DOM in Union County, a parade of missionaries and mission speakers stayed at their home.

By his senior year in high school, Sam was struggling with God's call. The strong influence of mission speakers made him feel God was calling him to the mission field. Yet, there was also a feeling that God was calling him to preach. He wasn't sure which call to answer.

"I had gone to my daddy about what I was dealing with," Sam said. "He told me to let God speak."

During the summer of 1985 the family attended the Southern Baptist Conference of DOMs just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. A speaker from the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) said that the greatest need today was for missionary preachers.

"When I heard what this mission speaker said, it all came together for me," Sam said.

Sam and his wife Bobbie are in the FMB missionary appointment process. They are looking at serving in Southeast Africa,



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON — Sons Philip (left) and Sam (right) stand with their father Marvin Cox, Director of Missions for Union Association in New Albany. Both sons are following their father in Christian ministry. (Photo by Carl M. White)

"the one place I never wanted to go," Sam said.

However, Bobbie spent three terms as a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Africa.

"We (Ellistown Church) were without a pastor when I made public my surrender to the ministry," Sam said. "My father led me to the Lord, he baptized me, and he was preaching when I surrendered to the ministry."

Philip decided he wanted to go into law enforcement after a friend was killed in a car accident that involved alcohol.

"I wanted to bust people on alcohol and drugs," Philip said.

Then a young man with whom Philip worked at a fast food restaurant, a man known for a foul mouth, suddenly changed.

Philip asked what had happened, and the man said he had been on a Christian trip and was living for the Lord now.

"It knocked me off my feet," Philip said. "I never did anything really bad, like drinking alcohol or doing drugs, but I associated with some people who did, and it affected my witness. I knew God was dealing with me," he said.

Philip's parents took a trip to the Ozarks just to get away. "I went with them and got alone with God and asked what he wanted from me," he said.

There was no TV or radio, no distractions. Philip took out his Bible and began to read.

"I talked with my Dad and I cried. I knew God was talking to me. Dad told me to do some hard praying. If God wanted to tell me something, he would tell me."

That Sunday they visited a country church. The preacher announced from the pulpit that he felt led to change his sermon. His new message was, "If you are going to do something for the Lord, do it!"

"I came away knowing God was calling me into the ministry," Philip said. "The devil threw me into a little detour for a while," he admitted. "My pastor preached on Jonah and said 'You will always be miserable if you do not do what God wants you to do.' I was convicted and rededicated my life to the ministry."

Marvin said he and his wife never stressed to their children that they had been dedicated to the Lord. "I never suggested this to them other than to say 'We want you to be what Christ would have you be.'"

"I am very proud of them, but I would be proud of them whatever they were doing. Yet, being a preacher myself, I understand that this is the greatest calling in the world."



Father's Day
Sunday, June 15

Fatherhood Facts

- ◆ The absence of a father is a stronger factor than poverty in contributing to juvenile delinquency according to the National Institute of Mental Health.
- ◆ Crime rates in 48 cultures were found to be highest among adults who as children had been raised solely by women, according to a Yale study.
- ◆ Researcher Martin Deutsch found that a father's presence and conversation, especially at dinner time, stimulates a child to perform better at school.
- ◆ A study of 1,337 medical doctors who graduated from John Hopkins University between 1948 and 1964 found that lack of closeness with parents was the common factor in hypertension, coronary heart disease, malignant tumors, mental illness, and suicide.
- ◆ Thirty-six out of 39 anorexic teenage girls in one study lacked a close relationship with their father.
- ◆ Young, white teenage girls living in fatherless homes were found to be 60 percent more likely to have premarital intercourse than those living in two-parent homes, according to a John Hopkins University study.
- ◆ Armand Nicholi's research for the White House found that an emotionally or physically absent father contributes to a child's (1) low motivation for achievement; (2) inability to defer immediate gratification for later rewards; (3) low self-esteem; and (4) susceptibility to juvenile delinquency.

source: Josh McDowell, "The Father Connection," Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.

Miss. CP ahead of budget SBC CP tops previous May

Cooperative Program (CP) giving in Mississippi for the first five months of 1997 is nearly a million dollars over budget, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the gifts.

The total for January through May is \$11,053,918. If equal gifts were given each month to reach the 1997 budget of \$24,145,086, the pro rata budget for the first five months of the year would be \$10,060,453.

Mississippi Baptist giving is \$993,465, or 9.87%, ahead of budget.

Mississippi Baptists in May gave \$2,071,904, just over the monthly pro rata amount of \$2,012,090.50.

Giving in 1997 continues to stay ahead of 1996 giving. Although May 1997 giving is \$129 less than for May 1996, giving for the first five months of this year is \$502,905 ahead of 1996.

Cooperative Program gifts help fund Christian higher education, child care, leadership training in the churches and associations, plus a camping program which include the GA Mother/Daughter Overnight at Camp Garaywa, June 20-21.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for May jumped more than 9% over the previous year's month and nearly \$6 million year-to-date over the previous year.

May CP gifts totaled \$14,014,953 compared to May 1996 of \$12,838,700, a 9.16% increase or \$1,176,252.

At the end of eight months of the SBC 1996-97 fiscal year, total CP receipts were \$104,834,013 compared to the same period in 1995-96 of \$98,927,932, an increase of 5.97% or \$5,906,081. The SBC fiscal year is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

Designated gifts for May also topped the previous year's May: \$21,817,238 compared to \$17,741,912, an increase of 22.97% or \$4,075,325. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$119,761,552 compared to the previous year of \$114,278,816, an increase of 4.8% or \$5,482,736.

For the SBC's CP Allocation Budget, the May receipts were \$1,927,161 above the required monthly figure of \$12,087,791, or a 15.94% increase. For the year to date, the required budget figure of \$96,702,332 has been surpassed by 8.41% or \$8,131,681.

FMB announces leaders for 'revitalization'

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Foreign Mission Board (FMB) trustees on June 3 approved a new associate vice president and a new team of regional leaders.

"These are people with a global vision," said Avery T. Willis, the FMB senior vice president for overseas operations. Willis will directly supervise the new team.

The appointments become effective July 1. Recommended by the board's senior executive team during the trustee meeting in Richmond, Va., June 2-4, they grew out of the reconfiguration of the board's overseas division from nine geographical areas and one non-geographical area to 14 new "regions."

FMB President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian, launched revitalization four months ago, declaring the need for bold, creative new initiatives and methods if Southern Baptists truly will have impact on a growing world population, including burgeoning Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and atheist segments.

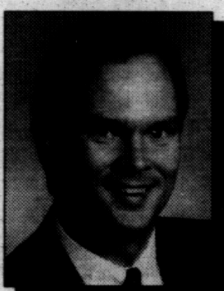
Five of the 15 new key slots are filled with missionaries now with Cooperative Services International (CSI), the board's evangelical and humanitarian arm for work where traditional missionary methods are difficult. CSI's work will be integrated into all 14 regions and

its approaches used, as appropriate, with unreached people groups in each region.

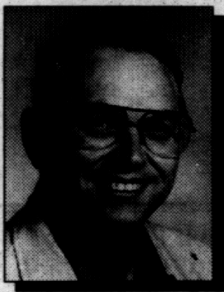
Named new associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization was David Garrison, now a field associate area director for CSI. Before taking that position in 1992, he directed the FMB's non-residential missionary program, which became an integral part of the CSI approach.

Trustees also named 12 people as new regional leaders. The 12 announced leaders are:

◆ Mississippian Larry Cox (For information on Cox's appointment, see page three).



Garrison

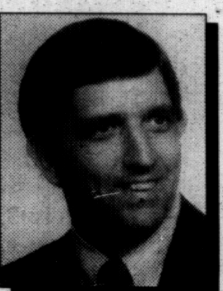


Fudge

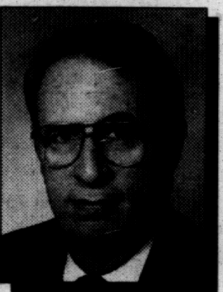


Morris

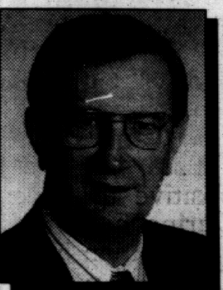
◆ **Bill Fudge**, 52, who will lead the Eastern Asia region, which includes the work of 349 Southern Baptist workers in China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.



Williams



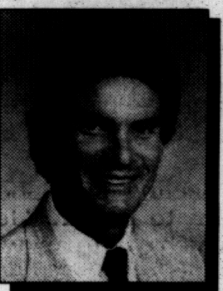
Meador



Floyd

◆ **Mark Morris**, 38, who will head FMB work in the Central and Southern Asia region, which includes more than 200 missionaries in such countries as Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

◆ **Tom Williams**, 46, who will lead nearly 400 missionaries in the Western Pacific region, including the Philippines, South Korea, and Japan.



E. Cox

◆ **Clyde Meador**, 52, who will head the Southeast Asia and Oceania region, which comprises more than 300 missionaries in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. He is now area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific.



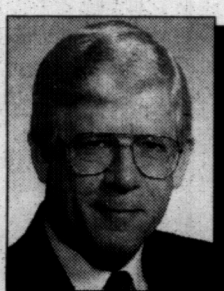
Fort

◆ **John D. Floyd**, 62, who will lead the Central and Eastern Europe region, which encompasses 225 missionaries in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He is now area director for all of Europe.

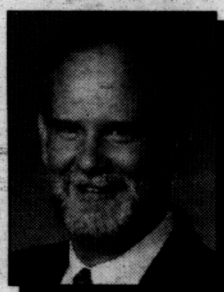
◆ **Eddie W. Cox**, 45, who will head the new Western Europe region, including 261 missionaries in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Since 1994, he has served as field associate to the area director for Europe from a base in Wiesbaden, Germany.

◆ **R. Gordon Fort**, 41, who

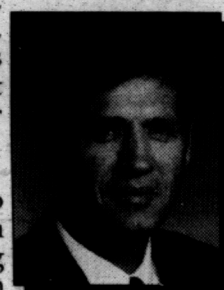
will lead the Southern Africa region, including 254 missionaries in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. He now serves as an associate to the area director for Eastern and Southern Africa.



Phillips



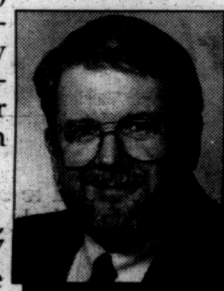
Sapp



Hadaway

◆ **Bill E. Phillips**, 53, who will head the Western Africa region, including 336 missionaries in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. He now serves as area director of West Africa, which is similar to his new region.

◆ **Jon Sapp**, 43, who will lead the Eastern Africa region, including 223 missionaries in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Congo (formerly Zaire). He now serves as a strategy associate to the area director for Eastern and Southern Africa.



Wilson

◆ **Robin Hadaway**, 48, who will head 347 missionaries in the Eastern South America region, comprising Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. He now serves with CSI in an undisclosed country in North Africa.

◆ **Ronald B. Wilson**, 49, who will lead the Caribbean Basin region, including 293 missionaries in Colombia, Belize, French Guiana, Guyana, Venezuela, and the islands of the Caribbean. Since 1991 he has served as area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumfower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Happy Father's Day

For fathers, a word of encouragement:

Walk a Little Slower, Daddy

"Please walk a little slower, Daddy,"
Said our little boys one day.
"If you go and leave us,
We may not find the way."

Make your steps shorter,
So we can keep in stride
We want our friends to see us,
Walking by your side.

Walk a little straighter Daddy,
For we want the world to see
That my daddy is the greatest,
Just like I want to be.

Whenever we're in trouble
And don't know what to do
We want everyone to see that
We're walking just like you."

Anonymous

A new book I strongly recommend is "Raising A Modern-Day Knight" by Robert Lewis (ISBN# 156-179-5348). It gives a detailed account of how a father can guide his son toward manhood.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

No FMB personnel fired

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — No Foreign Mission Board personnel were fired or terminated during the recent revitalization/reorganization of the agency.

None of the six former 10 area directors who went unnamed to the new 14 positions of regional leader has resigned. Each is being given a year's furlough and is being asked to return to missionary status with a new field assignment.

In trustee action in April all 10 area directors' positions were vacated, effective July 1 due to changes in overseas administrative units and redefined job descriptions. The four area directors who will become regional leaders will also return to missionary status, and the 10 new regional leaders also will remain on missionary status.

Of the six former area directors, three were offered positions as regional leaders and declined those for various reasons.

The six were Joe Bruce of Middle America and Canada, John Faulkner of Eastern and Southern Africa, Bill Goff of Spanish South America, Faye Pearson of East Asia, Mike Stroope of Cooperative Services International, and Dale Thorne of the Middle East and North Africa.

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There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

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Rice bowl revived for hunger emphasis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — For more than 15 years, thousands of churches have used the "rice bowl" — small plastic banks which resemble a bowl of rice — to raise awareness and funds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission (CLC) in Nashville recently began actively promoting the use of rice bowls, adopting the unique hunger product through an agreement with Rice Bowls, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that previously was the sole marketer of the product.

Rice bowls arose from the vision of Alastair Walker, former pastor of First Church, Spartanburg, S.C., and former president of the South Carolina

Baptist Convention. He is also president of Rice Bowls, Inc.

While visiting India, his heart broke for the starvation he witnessed.

With the support of numerous churches, the rice bowl ministry was born.

More than \$1 million was raised for world hunger in South Carolina alone in the rice bowls' first year.

Estimates run as high as \$30 million raised through the rice bowl ministry during the last 15 years.

Said Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for CLC, "God has clearly used the rice bowls in a mighty way to raise support for the nearly 300 hunger ministries sponsored by Southern Baptists both at home and abroad."

Noting the relatively low cost of the rice bowls, Nelson said the funds generated by the bowls should not diminish giving to any other special offerings.

"It is a great way for the church to do something together, with the participation of each family member. Lives can be so easily saved through just a small amount," he said, noting \$1.49 will feed a famine victim in North Korea for one month.

In October 1996, Mississippi Baptists shipped 103,000 pounds of food to North Korea through a state Brotherhood campaign.

In explaining how rice bowls work, Nelson suggested a four-step plan.

"Churches order rice bowls, which come 50 to a box, and give one bowl to each family.

"The family places the bowl in a prominent place in the home, such as on the kitchen table.

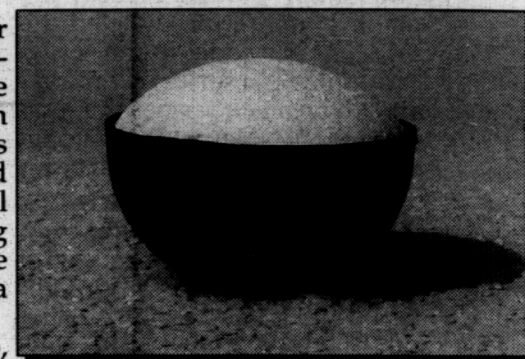
"On a predetermined Sunday, possibly World Hunger Day in October, all rice bowls are turned in with the proceeds designated for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

"The church can then reorder rice bowls and start the process again."

Rice bowls and various other hunger materials are available by contacting the Christian Life Commission at 901 Commerce St. #550, Nashville, TN 37203. Telephone: (615) 244-2495; fax: (615) 242-0065; e-mail: 71134.533@compuserve.com.

Nelson emphasized 100% of

proceeds received by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund are used for hunger ministry, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion.



Countless reports verify the claim that hunger ministry opens the door for sharing the gospel, Nelson said, noting an agricultural training effort in India resulted in the start of more than 400 new churches.

"It is our prayer that God will bless this effort mightily as Southern Baptists demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to those in need," Nelson said.

On July 1, CLC's name will be changed to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), as part of the Covenant for a New Century restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention set to go into effect on that date.

Bookstores getting involved in SBC world hunger fund

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The national chain of Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores has joined the 1997 campaign to collect funds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Change canisters resembling soup cans will be available until December at the check-out counters of the 66 stores across the United States as a result of employees' desire to be involved in a missions endeavor outside normal retail activity, according to Mark Scott, vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board's retail group.

"Because Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores reach so many persons, we can provide wide exposure to the cause of world hunger relief," Scott said. "We believe this is a project that will appeal to Southern Baptists as well as other evangelical Christians who visit our stores."

Gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund received at the SBC Christian Life Commission (CLC) or Executive Committee, both in Nashville, Tenn., are used completely for hunger ministry, with nothing taken for administration or promotion costs. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, 80% of the funds go to the Foreign Mission Board and 20% to the Home Mission Board. Missionaries and volunteers, in turn, use the funds to support nearly 200 hunger ministries in the United States and 58 other countries.

Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores are owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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NIV publisher files complaint over article

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (BP) — In a 10-page complaint filed with the ethics committee of the Evangelical Press Association (EPA), Zondervan Publishing House is alleging "World" magazine violated the association's code of ethics.

At issue is a series of "World" articles on a gender-neutral revision of the New International Version (NIV) Bible translation.

"World" publisher Joel Belz is the press association's current president.

"World's" NIV articles ignited controversy among evangelicals, prompting the International Bible Society, the NIV's U.S. copyright holder, to abruptly halt the NIV revision May 27.

"World" has caused confusion and distrust among readers of the NIV Bible.

"Zondervan has received hundreds of letters, phone calls, and e-mail messages from people who believe the misinformation 'World' first printed. Pastors have pulled the NIV from their pews and have recommended people no longer read it," Zondervan contended.

Belz, in an interview with Baptist Press, said, "Had the NIV sponsors stuck with a version that was widely accepted and deeply trusted, there never would have been a story in 'World' magazine.

"Full responsibility for all that has happened lies squarely with those who chose to tinker

with a good thing. This is a classic case of blaming the messenger."

Belz voiced no retreat over his magazine's reporting of the NIV gender-neutral revision, which brought Zondervan and the International Bible Society into national scrutiny, along with the Committee on Bible Translation, a 15-member group of scholars with authority over the NIV translation.

Ronald E. Wilson, executive director of the Evangelical Press Association, said there is no deadline for the three-member ethics committee to decide on the Zondervan and IBS complaints. The EPA panel will seek to make "a good decision, not a rushed one," Wilson said.

A key complaint by Zonder-

van notes "World's" reporting "erroneously attempts to convey a conspiracy of evangelical Bible translation with radical social feminism.

"It disjointedly begins by focusing on the NIV translation process, then makes a leap to somehow connect that with the role of women in church ministry."

Belz responded, "We have never claimed or implied that the NIV's sponsors identify with a radical feminist agenda.

"What we do assert is that all of us have been profoundly seduced by cultural feminism. The question is, the extent to which we recognize that seduction and build defenses against it.

"We believe the NIV's sponsors

were neither adequately sensitive to that seduction nor prepared to build defenses against it."

The work of the Committee on Bible Translation, Zondervan said, "is to constantly review critiques, analyze new textual finds such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and note changes in the English language.

"The focus is on maintaining complete accuracy to the original text in the face of these findings and changes.

"The message never changes, not even the slightest bit. The goal is that where a masculine, feminine or neuter noun or adjective is changed, it can only be revised in order to be more unmistakably accurate. Clarity, not confusion, is the objective."

Arson funds to help educate pastors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "Southern Baptists have put their money where their mouth is" this past year in response to the tragic burning of African American churches," Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Tom Elliff said.

Having now helped 98 African American congregations in 17 states rebuild after arson attacks, messengers to the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will be asked to affirm a recommendation that unspent donations to the SBC's Arson Fund be used for theological training of African American pastors.

The proposal, Elliff said, "means that the gifts of Southern Baptists will not only be used to restore church buildings destroyed by arson but to strengthen African American pastors and build deeper ties between us."

Southern Baptists have contributed approximately \$724,000 to the Arson Fund since it was initiated at 1996's

annual meeting in New Orleans by then-SBC President Jim Henry.

Elliff said May 29, "In concert with what I believe is the heart of Southern Baptists and upon the counsel of our Christian Life Commission, I will be asking the convention to affirm a recommendation that all unused funds be distributed to our seminaries for the specific purpose of assisting African American pastors in further theological training."

The funds would be distributed to the SBC's six seminaries according to the convention's seminary funding formula. Specific uses of the funds would be determined by each seminary.

The Arson Fund's distribution has been based on a formula developed by the SBC Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force based on an in-hand count of arson-related fires at African American churches in a state as a percentage of the total number of churches impacted nationally.

Approximately \$5,400 remains in the fund at the SBC Executive Committee, while some states still have balances after making allocations to

meet rebuilding needs in their state. According to SBC officials, state conventions will be asked to return unspent funds to the Executive Committee so the funds may be forwarded to the seminaries to aid in African American pastors' theological training.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., described the \$724,000 received by the Arson Fund as remarkable "in a year when SBC Cooperative Program giving is already at an all-time high."

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., initiated the Arson Fund with an offering during last year's Wednesday evening SBC session. At the time, messengers gave \$38,628 in cash and \$57,690 in pledges; even before the offering, \$185,000 had been raised in pledges by state Baptist conventions and churches. The overall initial total was \$281,318.

Henry, in his presidential address, urged pastors, church and state convention leaders to "go home and take collections and free up resources to assist in rebuilding."

In an earlier news conference, Henry said he hoped the offering will help show "that we've come a long way since some earlier days when these kinds of things happened and there was no response from our convention and evangelicals."

Central Hills registering

Dan West, manager of Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko, notes openings still exist for registrants in the camping program there.

The Royal Ambassador/Challenger camps (for boys in grades 4-12) are on June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, and July 28-Aug. 1. Cost of these camps is \$95 per camper.

Lad/Dad Weekend Camps (for boys in grades 1-3 and their fathers) are set for June 28-28 and July 11-12. Cost of these camps is \$26 per camper.

For details contact Central Hills Baptist Retreat at P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723. Telephone (601) 289-9730.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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QMHD IWCB FHII JDQR
QMHX, C VCAA WIY NRJ
RDH QMCDE; CI CQ
AWVPJA RD QMH IWU-
UWQM BWN QR BR
ERRB, RO QR BR HKCA?
QR IWKH ACPH, RO QR
BHIQORN CQ?

AJYH ICS: DCDH

Clue: K equals V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-Two Twenty-Two.



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The 10 Commandments of Sunday School Growth

(This is part 2 of a series on the 10 laws for Sunday School growth)

Law #4 — Bible scholars do not make the best Sunday school teachers. Many are under the mistaken impression that Sunday School teachers need to know a lot about the Bible. The truth is, Bible scholars often make the worst teachers. Teaching involves much more than giving a 45 minute talk on Sunday. The best teachers are those who minister to the needs of their pupils, promote fellowship, contact members and prospects regularly, and apply the lesson truths to their members lives. A teacher's job is not to teach the lesson. It is to minister to the needs of their pupils.

Law #5 — The 80% rule. This is one law you cannot violate and grow. Once a room reaches 80% of capacity, then it is full. This applies to worship space as well as educational space. History has taught us that once a room is 80% full, then the class will stop growing. Here are the steps to finding your capacity. Measure the exterior of your educational space. Multiply length times width to find total square feet. Divide this number by 40 (each person needs 40 square feet of space). The answer is the maximum capacity of your space at 100%. 80% of this number is the most you can consistently average in that space. This is a very important number, don't forget it, and you can't ignore it.



Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor
Trinity Baptist Church
Southaven, Mississippi

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Contact The Sunday School Board for these resources: Email to 70423.2526@compuserve.com or fax your order anytime to 615-251-5933.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Faith Church, Hickory Flat, ordained Gary Kenneth Roberson Jr. to the ministry on Jan. 19. He is now serving as pastor of Hohenlinden Church, Mantee. Pictured (from left) are Gina Roberson, Gary Roberson, and Bill Dowdy, pastor.



Chennault and DeBord

Tim Chennault (left) was licensed to preach the Gospel by Lakeshore Church, Jackson, May 25. Presenting the license is **Matthew DeBord**, pastor.



Earnest Kenneth Adams (left) was licensed to the ministry May 18 by Liberty Church, Nettleton. **Mike Brazeal**, pastor, presented the certificate. Adams is available for supply and can be contacted at 601-256-2571.

LAKWOOD MEMORIAL PARK

Rev. Rob Robbins is now a Counselor with Lakewood Memorial Park and Funeral Home. For a caring approach to cemetery and funeral planning, call him at 922-2123.



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United States annually at up to 21 million. With many international students in this country, one of the emphases of the program Bates will lead is encouraging Southern Baptists to participate as "friendship families" relating to an international person in the local area. Bates also will work with returned Southern Baptist volunteers to capture their newly found excitement about overseas work and equip them for a collective role as missions promoters. He also will make public appearances at promotional missions events throughout the country.

Joey J. Brent received the doctor of ministry degree May 16 from Luther Rice Seminary, Atlanta, Ga. He is currently associate pastor of First Church, Columbia, S.C. Brent is also a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. He is



Brent



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Ed Newman was licensed to preach by First Church, Kosciusko, on May 4. He is available for pulpit supply and can be contacted by calling (601) 674-5066. Pictured (from left) are **Barry C. Corbett**, pastor; **Newman**; and his wife **Gayle**.

married to the former **Kathy Jennings** of Brandon.

Jonathan Kittrell, Hattisburg, was ordained to the Gospel May 18 at Maybank Church, Hattiesburg. He is the son of **Bill** and **Martha Ann Kittrell**. He has earned a master of divinity from

New Orleans Seminary and is currently working on a doctor of education degree.

Kathy Joyner, a member of Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, received her pin for 41 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

HOMEcomings

First, Leakesville: June 29; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; **Phil Walker**, Madison, will be the guest speaker. **Jimmy Kettleman** is pastor.

Southside, Vicksburg: July 13; 11 a.m. and afternoon singing 1:30 p.m. **Billy and Dondra Mangum**, Crystal Springs, music; **Sammy McDonald**, pastor, speaker.

Paul, Scobey: June 22; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. with **A.M. (Sonny) Moore III**, pastor chaplain; noon meal; 2 p.m. singing;

Donnie Bain, pastor.

First, Lake: June 22; 10:30 a.m., dinner on grounds, and 1:30 p.m. service, missions report with **Matt and Ken McLemore**, and singing and testimonies in the evening; **Francis Martin**, Spencer, Va., guest speaker; **Jerry Peagler**, Raleigh, music; **LaVerne Summerlin**, pastor.

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SENIOR ADULT GROUPS NEEDED: Fall mission trips in Atlanta, Leesburg, New Orleans. Activities include fellowship, mission work, Bible study, sightseeing. Call Mission Adventures 800-299-0385.

NEEDED—PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH at Ephesus Baptist Church in Forest. Send resumes to **Mike Sharp**, 557 Greer Road, Forest, MS 39074.

HOUSEPARENTS — Florida Baptist Children's Home is seeking to employ a live-in couple as Child Care Workers to care for 10 children in Miami. Compensation based on salary range of \$14,635 to \$22,123 each, based on education & experience. Excellent benefits, including paid vacation. Call **Brian Hawkins** (305) 271-4121. EOE/DFW.

NOTCH ESTATES — BRANSON, MO. Condo, 1 mile west of Silver Dollar City. 2BR 2BA, sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th free; or 4 nights, 5th free. Free continental breakfast. \$95 daily. (601) 746-4632.

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Retiree benefit slated

Raymond Road Church, Jackson, will sponsor a golf tournament Sept. 11-12 at Brookwood Country Club in Jackson to benefit retired pastors, missionaries, and their families under the Adopt An Annuity program of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board.

The Adopt An Annuity program provides assistance to retired Southern Baptist personnel who had limited or no contributions toward retirement through the Annuity Board and are now impoverished.

"I watched a video on retired pastors, missionaries, their wives, and widows. These folks have given their lives serving God, (and they) are in need of basic necessities — food, clothing, and heat in the winter.

"Why can't we get together once a year and play in a tour-

namment for God's servants who are in such need?" asked tournament coordinator Andy Holder of Jackson, a member of Raymond Road Church.

Free breakfast will be provided for the morning players (8 a.m. tee-off) as will lunch for the afternoon players (12 noon tee-off).

Choice of day and tee time is first-come, first-served. There will be no money winners. Various prizes will be given away.

Entry fee is \$60 per golfer, which includes cart, green fee, and the meal. Deadline for registration is August 15.

To register, send check payable to "Retired Minister's Golf Tournament" in care of Raymond Road Baptist Church, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

For more information, contact Holder at (601) 373-9520, or Jeff Smith at (601) 372-6154.

GOLFING FOR GOD'S NEEDY SERVANTS



JUST FOR THE RECORD



Hillcrest Church, Jackson, held a Recognition Service for its GAs on May 4. Twelve girls received GA badges for completing the required work on Missions Adventures. Three girls received a GA necklace for completing all requirements for grades 1-6. The guest speaker was Frances Raley, retired missionary to Taiwan. Pictured, back row: Brooke Lincoln, Brandi Ricks, Heather Johnson, Melanie Keen, Stephanie Taylor, Lauren Barnes, and Sarah Mahaffey; front row: Danielle Carpenter, Jennifer Nations, Brandi Johnson, Mallory Reves, Brittany Lincoln, Jennifer Eubanks, Brooke Johnson, and Paige Ladd. Not pictured: Angela Grissom, Melanie Butler, Ashley Foshe, and Ashley Simpson.

Southside Church, Vicksburg, will be having a special singing service June 14, 6 p.m., with Warrenton Boys Quartet, Teresa Teasley, and Jack Hollingsworth.

Sammy McDonald, pastor.

Old Rice Road, Madison, will be holding a reception honoring Fred Tarpley for 60 years of ministry on June 22, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

REVIVAL DATES

Harperville Church, Harperville: June 22-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; weekday services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; John Sharp is pastor.

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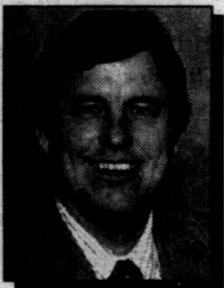
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FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

First Church, Columbus, has called **Johnny Presley** as minister to adults. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Presley is a former missionary to Rio de Janeiro where he served as Religious



Presley

Education Consultant for the Brazilian Baptist Convention. His previous place of service was First Church, Lauderdale, as minister of education and music.

County Line Church, Carthage, has called **Mark Pilgrim** as pastor effective June 15. His previous place of service was Carson Ridge Church, Ethel.

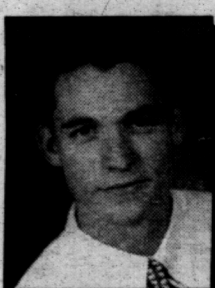
Paul Middleton has resigned Spring Hill Church, Marshall Association, effective May 25 to accept the call as pastor to Calvary Church, Batesville.

Cedar Grove Church, Marion Association, has called **Michael A. Grenn** as pastor effective April 6, **Danny Panter** as youth minister, and **Christopher Turnage** as minister of music. A native of Brookhaven, Grenn attended Mississippi College and is a graduate of William Carey College. Churches he previously served are Crooked Creek, Lawrence Association;

Eden, Yazoo Association; and Galilee, Copiah Association. Panter, son of Dan and Libby Panter, missionaries to Russia, is a student at William Carey College. Turnage of Oakvale attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi. Turnage previously served Oakvale Church, Oakvale; Arm Church, Arm; and Calvary Church, Silver Creek.



Grenn



Panter



Turnage

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

PRAYER SIMPLIFIES BIBLE

Editor:

When I was a child, to my knowledge we only had the King James Version of the Bible; then along came the New International Version. Now, we've gone a step further and there is the New International Reader's Version. Each step has changed "just a little."

I feel that in all this hoopla over the various versions, that everyone is overlooking Rev. 22:18-19.

This Scripture clearly states that if we add to God's Scripture he will send the plagues; likewise, if we take away from the Scriptures, he will take away his part of the Book of Life.

Oftentimes the Bible is hard to read, but I find that if I read and pray as I go, for the most part I gain some understanding of the Scriptures.

Had we been more aware of our government's practices, we would not have lost the freedoms we have, i.e. prayer in schools! Our losses were a step by step process.

Let's not lose our souls by attempting to simplify God's Word!

Myra Lanham
Boonville, MS

MAINTAIN SEPARATION

Editor:

Thank you, Charles Myers, for clearly stating the historical and still wise Baptist position on church-state relations (Guest Opinion, May 29 issue).

Baptists would do well to celebrate it by recommitting themselves to their historic position of separation of church and state.

I believe Myers is correct in asserting that the U.S. was never a Christian nation, because nations cannot be Christian, only individuals can be.

Granted, many of the founding fathers (a small minority of the population) professed a

kind of Christianity, but Thomas Jefferson's and others' deism has little in common with the evangelical fundamentalism of Jerry Falwell, Ralph Reed, and the current Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

Another effort is afoot to undercut this historic Baptist position: House Joint Resolution 78, the Religious Freedom Amendment.

In part its text reads: "The people's right to pray and recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed."

The authors of the proposed amendment seem to be unaware that such freedoms are afforded students in public schools already, under current law.

If you or your student-children have been told otherwise by a school official, you may have been deprived of your rights because of their ignorance of what the law allows, and their lack of training in this important matter does not warrant the passing of a Constitutional amendment.

Those parents and others

concerned with this vital topic may obtain a copy of this document at no charge by writing: Religion in the Public Schools; 15 East 84th Street, Suite 501, New York, NY 10028.

Richard L. Conville
Hattisburg, MS

SBC FALLING APART

Editor:

Southern Baptists became the fastest growing protestation denomination years ago because of our belief and application of the Holy Bible and our organization and structure, based on the New Testament.

Liberalism became a problem because we were complacent about our belief of the Bible.

We put our confidence in the pastors not realizing that some did not believe the Scriptures.

We have overcome that, somewhat, but the organization and structure of the denomination is rapidly falling apart.

The younger generation of pastors seems to believe that we need to follow God's Will but only they can communicate with our Savior.

They are "all knowing" and we must wait for them to inform us of what we are to do.

Those who become aware that this is contrary to the Southern Baptist polity are labeled "troublemakers" and become an outcast to the church regardless of their years of service and dedication.

Pastors surround themselves with people who will follow them as the Heaven's Gate group did in California and he uses them until they may see the misguided direction of the church. They are then cast aside also.

This activity is moving very silently but very effectively in many of our churches.

R. K. Houston wrote a comment in the June 27, 1996, issue of "The Baptist Record," identifying that our delegates were not representing our true Southern Baptist desires.

The problem goes beyond that. It must be stopped in our local churches.

We must wake up before we become the fastest dying religion.

R. E. Beech
Gulfport

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Seventy pastors and staff members from Miss., La., Ala., and Fla. churches participated in the 2nd Annual Minister's Golf Tournament sponsored by the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies department of William Carey College. The tournament was held on May 19-20 at Timberton Golf Club in Hattiesburg.

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LIFE AND WORK

Personal worship

Psalm 145:1-5, 8-12, 17-19

By Becky Bennett

Blind and deaf from the age of two, Helen Keller was asked by a young boy, "Isn't it the worst thing in the world to be blind?" She replied, "Not half so bad as to have two good eyes and see nothing." Personal worship involves seeing and being aware of the things that so often are taken for granted. It is also a time to reflect upon those things not so visible.

Worship Daily (145:1-2). Bible study, prayer, and meditation nourish the Christian life. In these verses the psalmist leaves no doubt these activities should be a daily part of the life of a growing, maturing

Christian. A daily time of personal worship is a worthy goal for every Christian. How often do you let other concerns rob you of daily personal worship?

The purpose of worship is to celebrate God. He is great and certainly deserving of praise. Though God's greatness is beyond our comprehension, we should constantly praise and worship him. We must plan for daily worship, just as we plan for attending church on a regular basis. Self discipline, routine, and determination help Christians to achieve a pattern of daily personal worship. Though God is the object of our worship



Bennett

time, we are the recipients of his great blessing. God does not need our worship—he wants it. We need to give him praise and adoration. Through these worship times we receive great joy as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of God.

Focus on God (145: 3-5, 8-9): As we focus on God in our daily worship time, we learn more and more about the nature of God. He is merciful and tenderly compassionate, God is long suffering—in other words, he takes a long time to get angry. His love is totally unchanging. God's provision for all of his creation is abundant. Isn't it wonderful to focus completely on God and his greatness? How small self becomes in the presence of God.

When we focus on God, another purpose of daily wor-

ship is established. Not only do we celebrate God, but he becomes more important to us and we become less significant. Personal, daily worship leads Christians to share God's greatness with others.

Tell Others About God (145:10-12). Bring to your memory a really exciting time in your life—an engagement, the birth of a child or grandchild, a new job or a promotion. How long did it take you to find someone with whom to share your good news? If no one is close we find someone. Sometimes we tell total strangers our exciting news! How long has it been since you shared the good news about God's greatness with someone? More time spent in personal, daily worship gives us more exciting things to share with others.

Expect God to Respond (145:17-19). God will respond to our praise and adoration.

Worship is an activity involving both God and us. God is loving and just, and in worship he draws near to us. God joins with us in our many endeavors. He fulfills the desires of our hearts. God hears our cries of distress and rescues us. His provision is perfect.

Many people with sharp eyesight and acute hearing seem totally unaware of the beautiful sights and sounds around them. They never notice the majesty of stately trees, the tranquillity of a quiet lake, or the splendor of starry skies. They fail to hear the melodies of singing birds or the gentle rustling of leaves. We must take time to hear and see God. He takes pleasure in our praise. Don't be robbed of great joy and the real strength of your Christian life by neglecting daily personal worship.

Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Being faithful in marriage

I Corinthians 7:1-16

By Greg McBride

To marry or not to marry, that was the question that seemed to be buzzing in the ears of the Corinthian church. The question seems odd unless you take into consideration the fact that the New Testament church, much more than the church of today, had an urgent expectation of the second coming of Christ in their lifetime. If Christ was coming in a few short years, the Corinthians reasoned, did they need to waste time on being married? Furthermore, if their spouses refused to be saved, should they stay married to them? These were legitimate questions, and Paul gave concrete answers to them. The

answers he gave are still relevant to the church today. In our culture of no-contest divorce and live-in relationships the church would do well to pay attention to Paul's instruction.

Being Married (7:1-6). To begin with, Paul stated what Jesus stated in Matthew 19:3-6—Marriage is good. Marriage was actually God's idea and therefore Paul would not deny those who wanted to be married. Marriage provided freedom from immorality as well as a sense of belonging. Yet Paul wanted to teach the Corinthians about marriage's most important ingredient—selflessness. Using the sexual



McBride

relationship between a man and a woman, Paul described how marriage created a bond in which both partners were no longer mutually exclusive. This meant that they could no longer make decisions considering only themselves. Every decision a married person makes must

take into consideration the needs of the spouse. Only upon mutual agreement, for a limited time, and for the purpose of spiritual reflection were the needs of the individual marriage partners to be denied.

Being Single (7:7-9). Paul felt that singleness was best for the time at hand. However, he also felt that singleness was a gift from God. Only gifted people are able to remain single. Single people who are not so gifted should see it as God's will for them to find a mate. God did not design men and women with

this internal desire, for them to deny its satisfaction (burn with passion). To those who are single, Paul says they must determine if their marital status is a gift from God and then take appropriate action. There is today in our culture an underlying assumption that single people are incomplete. This is true even in the church. As a result, singles feel that they are exterior to the central ministry of the church. We should give heed to Paul's teaching here. Both singleness and marriage are valid and necessary for the ministry of the Gospel of Christ.

Staying Married (7:10-16). As to what Christians are supposed to do after they get married, Paul had one instruction—stay married. He wasn't just giving his opinion either, he was quoting Jesus (v.10). God intended that couples stay together, but if they couldn't manage that and had to separate, Paul gave two options—live single or be recon-

ciled to each other. This may seem hard in our culture of no-fault divorce, but Christians are called to a higher standard than the world. Christians need to understand that the reason they are unhappy in their marriage is not their spouse but their sin. I don't know about you, but if my only two choices were to remain unmarried or be reconciled, I'd swallow my pride and work out my problem. Singleness is just not my gift!

Yet there is one more word on marriage from Paul—Christian, if you're married to an unbeliever, stay married. Your spouse is your mission field. Only if the unbelieving spouse insists on divorce should you give up on your marriage.

No matter how hard we try to trivialize marriage in our culture, marriage is important to God. It should not be entered lightly nor exited easily.

McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Endure hard times

2 Timothy 2:1-13

By Paul Blanchard

Timothy was facing a time of spiritual vacillation and weakness. Maybe he questioned his calling, his gifts, or the sufficiency of God's provision. The Apostle Paul told Timothy to remember and exercise the power, love, and discipline that the Holy Spirit had provided him. He needed to be willing to suffer for the Lord's sake. Paul stated, "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." The verb "be strong" is an imperative, making it a command. Yet, it is a command tempered by Paul's deep love for Timothy.

Timothy had not reached the point of defection, but the Apostle Paul apparently thought that Timothy was

being tempted that way. Paul was saying in effect, "Don't even think of dropping out or curtailing your work to suit your own desires. This isn't your ministry but the Lord's, and you have no right to quit or slack up until he takes you out of the game by rapture or death."

We should listen to Paul's advice today! When persecution comes our way and we are tempted to give up, we should stand firm! Christian service involves the commitment to endure. The first mark of a good soldier is the willingness to suffer hardship. The verb used in Paul's writing means to suffer evil or pain along with someone else. One scholar



Blanchard

translates the phrase, "take one's share of rough treatment." It is difficult for Christians in the western world to understand what serious spiritual warfare and suffering for Christ mean. Though the secular environment in our society is becoming more hostile to Christianity, we are still not faced with the loss of job, imprisonment, or execution because of our faith.

Paul also uses the illustration of the athlete. Christian service demands the dedicated training of the victorious athlete. The athlete of Paul's day had three qualifications to meet. First, he had to be true-born Greek. Second, he had to prepare at least ten months for the games and swear to that before a statue of Zeus. Third, he had to compete within the specific rules for a given event. Comparable rules apply to spiritual Christians. We must

be born again; we must be faithful in study and obedience of God's word and prayer; and we must live according to Christ's standards of discipleship.

Paul also uses the illustration of the farmer to show the characteristics of the strong spiritual life. The farmer works to gain the crop for himself. The daily life of the farmer may seem unrewarding and unexciting. The Christian's life is often like the farmer. There may be occasional times of excitement and special satisfaction, but the daily routine is often the same.

In verses 11-13, the Apostle Paul gives the promise of eternal blessing, another motivation for faithfulness. Paul states that if we endure persecution and hostility we give evidence that we truly belong to Christ and that we shall also reign with Him. That is the hope of Christians—the eternal kingdom. The verb here means to

"reign with." In verses 11-13, Paul uses the phrase "It is a trustworthy statement." In the pastoral epistles this phrase is used five times, and is found nowhere else in the New Testament. Paul uses it to introduce an important truth. The truth in verses 11-13 is that if we died with Jesus, we shall also live with Jesus. Enduring persecution is worth the price we have to pay because of the people who can come to Jesus and be saved. Our deep conviction should be to lead lost people to Jesus. Christian service demands faithfulness in witnessing. A great motivation for faithfulness is the power of the word of God. The Bible is God's Holy Word. It is inerrant and inspired of God. It is our source of spiritual nourishment. As we serve Jesus and tell others about Him, may we find daily strength in the Bible, along with our prayer time.

Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.

Uganda church offers haven from illness

By Alberta Lindsey
Richmond Times Dispatch



KAMPALA, Uganda (BP) — The three women bowed their heads in prayer.

Robina Namuli, 33, Prossy Gwokyalya, 31, and Justine Nakiwala, 45, have AIDS. They know it will claim their lives, and they have accepted that.

The three are participants in Kampala Baptist Church's AIDS ministry. They came on this Saturday evening for fellowship and for emotional support from one another and from their Christian God.

They live in a country where acquired immune deficiency syndrome is rampant. Many people have AIDS and don't know it because they have never been tested, said Mark Pierce, a Southern Baptist

military has AIDS and 20 to 25% of young adults in cities, Pierce said.

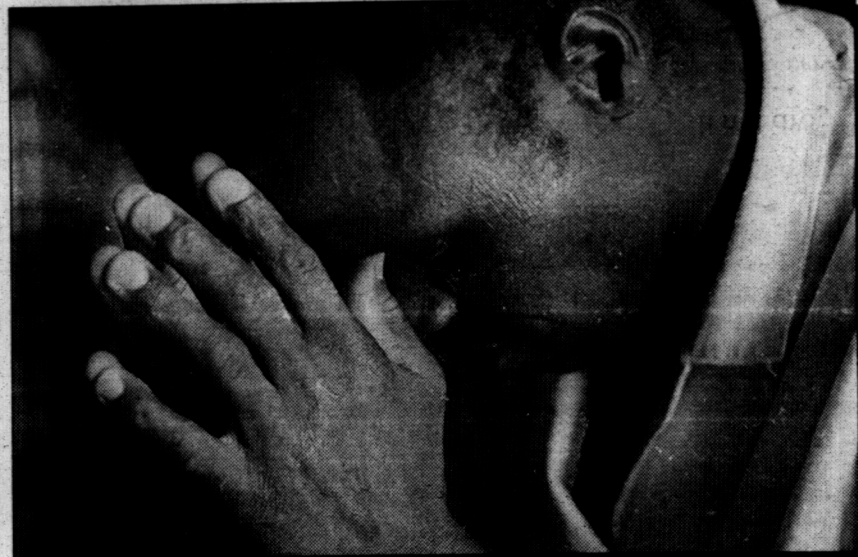
"You see people you know, in all likelihood, will die despite anything you do," he said. "You do what you can and try not to pull back from the patient."

One way Uganda is attacking the AIDS problem is with a campaign focusing on sexual fidelity in marriage and abstinence outside marriage. The program, True Love Waits, was started by Southern Baptists in the United States in 1993. Now it is used by other denominations and in countries around the world.

"We go into schools and talk with students and use demonstrations," said Andrew Mwenge (mWANG), head of Uganda's True Love Waits program. Converted to Christianity through a Baptist student group in 1981, Mwenge, now 36, has been a pastor at the Kampala church seven years.

Ugandan girls begin having sex around 12 years of age and boys when they are about 14, he said.

"We try to get them to sign a commitment card promising not to have sex before marriage and not to have sex with anyone but their marriage partner. We know the program is effective from the letters we get from people telling how this is helping them," he said. About 16,300 signed cards have been returned.



QUIET TIME — Simon Okeng, a member of Nakawa Baptist Church in Kampala, Uganda, takes a moment for prayer. (Photo by P. Kevin Morley © 1997 Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Kampala Baptist Church has low-energy activities, such as making handbags and belts, that generate income for people with AIDS. The patients also grow mushrooms, which are sold for about \$4 for one kilo, said Patrick Galabuzi (Gahla-BOOZ-e) who heads the AIDS ministry.

People who participate in the Saturday AIDS group come for fellowship and for food, clothing, and medication, Galabuzi said. "We talk with them and give them comfort."

Nakiwala, one of the women in the group praying this Saturday morning, isn't sure

how long she has had AIDS. Her husband died from the disease in 1993.

She sells fruit and vegetables in a market to earn money. She worries about what will happen to the youngest of her five children. The children range in age from 10 to 20. "I have nothing to leave them," Nakiwala said. "I'm trying to build a small house for the children."

Said Namuli: "I try to be brave, to be strong and to just live with AIDS. There's nothing I can do about it."

"Life goes on."
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NEW LIFE — Jim Rice (left) and other clergy baptize converts in Lake Victoria. (Photo by P. Kevin Morley © 1977 Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Cowboy Bibles a hit in Miss.

"The Baptist Record" has received numerous calls requesting information on how to receive a copy of the cowboy Bible mentioned in the article entitled, "Movie subject's life continues as witness," on page 12 of the June 5 issue. Interested persons should write to Clyde and Elsie Frost at 1116 E. Cottonwood Lane in Lane, OK 74555. The Bibles are being distributed free of charge under limited funding. A donation of \$3.50 per Bible is suggested for those people able to donate.

missionary who is an infectious diseases specialist at Makerere University Medical School in Kampala. Most don't want to know they have the disease.

"More than half of the people we admit are positive even though most aren't tested," Pierce said.

The Uganda AIDS Commission reports the 20-30 age group is especially hard hit, and the deaths of so many child-rearing people have left the country with more than 500,000 orphans.

Caring for the children often falls to grandparents, because in many cases, aunts and uncles also have died of AIDS. Other children live on the streets, making out the best they can.

Polygamy, long a part of Ugandan culture, is partly responsible for the spread of AIDS in the country. "It seems like half of the men we admit have two wives," Pierce said. "They will have a wife in one town and another in a different town."

In addition to adult-to-adult transmission of the disease, between 25% and 35% of infants born to HIV-infected women become infected before or during birth or through breast-feeding.

Certain segments of the population have especially high AIDS rates. About 60% of the

AIDS, family fail to derail faith

By Alberta Lindsey
Richmond Times Dispatch

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP) — AIDS led William Maseruka to Christ. As if suffering the deadly disease weren't enough, he also has suffered for his faith.

Because of his refusal to participate in spirit worship, his brothers and sisters disavowed him and took his inheritance.

Now he lives in a windowless mud hut in a village near Kampala.

There, sitting on a pile of sweet potatoes, with his wife and five of his six children around him, Maseruka (Mah-sah-ROOK-ah) told his story.

"In 1987, I was discovered by doctors to have the HIV virus in my blood. I denied it for some years. 'No, it can't happen to me.' I denied it right up to 1990 when we lost our baby who was 1 year old. The baby had the virus, and she died from the problem."

None of the couple's other children has been diagnosed with AIDS. Maseruka's wife, Margaret, is infected.

The couple became involved with Kampala Baptist Church's ministry for AIDS patients. One Saturday a group from the church presented a play, "The Virus and the Cross."

"We thought we had come to the dead end, but the play was giving us some hope that in Jesus Christ there is eternal hope," said Maseruka, 36.



FAMILY CARE — At Mbarara University Hospital and other institutions in Uganda, relatives often stay with AIDS patients in order to help short-handed staffs. (Photo by P. Kevin Morley © 1997 Richmond Times-Dispatch)

"I told my wife, 'We better accept Jesus Christ as our Savior because there is no other alternative.' Then if we die, at least we will reap this eternal life that Jesus Christ gives."

Margaret Maseruka said, "I feel free (since becoming a Christian). I am happy."

Maseruka said his brothers tell him: "Our father chose you to be his heir, to carry on his responsibilities, and some of the duties as heir are these rituals."

"I say: 'I have abandoned that. I will not drop Jesus Christ.'"

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